

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action dated October 19, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,735,302 (*Caine*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner asserts that *Caine* (in Figure 7, and the accompanying description between column 9 to column 11) teaches claim 1, as well as the other pending claims. See Office Action, pages 2-4. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 calls for receiving a digital input signal; determining a first DC component value of the digital input signal at a first selected time; determining a second DC component value of the digital input signal at a second selected time; determining a difference between the first DC component value and the second DC component value; and providing the first DC component value to a digital-to-analog converter in response to determining that the difference is less than a first selected value.

Other than citing generally to two columns from *Caine*, the Examiner has failed to point with any meaningful level of specificity where each and every feature of claim 1 (as well as the other claims) can be found. Thus, it is not clear as to how the Examiner applies the cited reference to the claims. Notwithstanding the lack of details in the Office Action, the Applicants have made a concerted effort to review the reference cited by the Examiner, and find that this reference does not teach or suggest the combination claimed in claim 1. In particular, the reference does not teach the claimed combination of determining a first and second DC components at respectively first and second selected times, determining the difference between

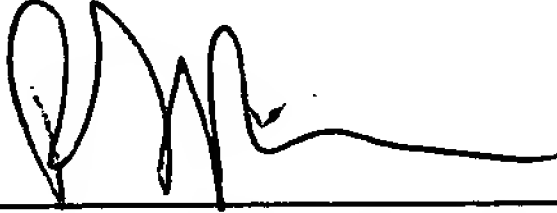
said DC components, and providing the first DC component to a converter in response to determining that the difference is less than a first selected value. For at least this reason claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

The other independent claims (and their respective dependent claims) are further allowable in view of the claimed combination of features recited therein.

Arguments with respect to other dependent claims have been noted. However, in view of the aforementioned arguments, these arguments are moot and therefore not specifically addressed. To the extent that characterizations of the prior art references or Applicant's claimed subject matter are not specifically addressed, it is to be understood that Applicant does not acquiesce to such characterization.

In light of the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 are allowable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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| <p>Date: <u>1/16/06</u></p> | <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C. CUSTOMER NO. 23720</p> <p>By: </p> <p>Ruben C. Bains, Reg. 46,532 10333 Richmond, Suite 1100 Houston, Texas 77042 (713) 934-7000 (713) 934-7011 (facsimile) ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)</p> |
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